

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Governors Island National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GOIS

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The Centennial vision for the Governors Island National Monument is to preserve the National Monument's primary historic resources - Castle Williams and Fort Jay - two 1812-era fortifications, built as part of our nation's early coastal defense system. The forts would become a Harbor Center, a hub of activities for visitors exploring Governors Island as part of a larger New York Harbor tour and experience. The Governors Island National Monument would become an attraction for the 8-million local residents of New York City, with compelling, educational and fun activities that will bring people back again and again, and serve as a must-see harbor attraction by out-of-town visitors.

Working with other national parks in the New York/New Jersey area, NY state and city agencies, private partners and organizations throughout New York City, NPS would develop creative and changing exhibitions, public programs and special events within the rehabilitated forts and surrounding parade grounds. Programs, activities and research would spring from and focus on the history, development and ecology of the harbor over time, the significance and historical military role of Governors Island, and the people of Governors Island who shaped national and world events. Castle Williams would become the island's main exhibition and public activity center, with Fort Jay becoming a temporary live-work compound for visiting researchers, historians, scientists, and artists -- whose work and own programs complement and add to the array of public programs offered by NPS. Given our "heart of the harbor" location and proximity to the largest city in the U.S., our vision includes offering visitors a variety of ways to experience and learn about Governors Island, and applying new technologies to reach and serve audiences of different ages, countries and backgrounds.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Linda Neal, Superintendent

Site: GOIS

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Rehabilitate Fort Jay and Castle Williams to remove existing hazardous materials and install safety features to enable safe and healthy public access and use of these primary park resources. Likewise, rehabilitate the Fort Jay Parade Ground by removing non-essential structures and re-landscaping to re-connect the historical and visual connections between the 2 forts and with the harbor and its public esplanade.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

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ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In collaboration with national, state and city agencies and organizations, develop public programs that focus on the environmental and ecological changes affecting New York Harbor and islands like Governors Island from historical and current day perspectives. In collaboration with other island operators, developers and tenants, develop and implement sustainable practices related to construction, landscape maintenance and recycling.

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RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase collaborations between NPS Rangers and NYC-based schools and organizations to provide summer day camp, overnight camping, and curriculum based experiences on Governors Island. This includes enhancing and expanding the Junior Ranger Program and, developing with students at the Harbor School, pilot programs that can be replicated city-wide.

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EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Develop public programs, exhibits and materials that are relevant to all Americans and that relate and connect the stories and history of Governors Island to universal themes and present-day topics. Develop a variety of ways for visitors to express their issues, concerns and interests about Governors Island National Monument and respond to these interests by trying new programs, technologies and otherwise adjusting park operations to better serve the American public.

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PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop Governors Island National Monument goals in collaboration with and in the context of larger National Park Service, State and City goals for New York Harbor. Expand our partnership network city-wide and tap into opportunities with other national organizations to achieve historic preservation, recreation and public access and enjoyment goals.

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